

means of hair nooses on the race course. On inspecting his captures, he found a pair of plovers ♂ and ♀ with which he was not acquainted; these he purchased for the very moderate sum of 10 cents for the pair, and they are now mounted. They prove to be *Eudromias veredus* of Gould., originally described P. Z. S., 1848, p. 38. The species is rare in this part of the world. It has been recorded once from the Andamans (S. F. I., 83) and once from the Sunderbunds. It however seems to occur not unfrequently in Java and the islands farther East.

W. D.

I may also note that when at Penang in May last I noticed a flight of about 20 birds of the rare tern *Sterna leucoptera*.

W. D.

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#### FRUGIVOROUS HABITS OF THE TUPAIA.

This little insectivore (*Tupaia javanensis*) is very common in Singapore, and especially in the Botanic Gardens, where it may be often seen running about among the trees. It is easily mistaken for the common little squirrel (*Sciurus hippurus*), of which it has much the appearance. When alarmed it quickly darts up the trunk of the nearest tree, but is a poor climber, and never seems to go high up like the squirrel. But besides these points of resemblance, it appears also to be largely frugivorous. It was found that the seeds sown in boxes were constantly being dug up and devoured by some animal, and traps baited with pieces of coco-nut or banana were set, and a number of tupaia were caught. These being put into a cage appear to live very comfortably upon bananas, pineapple, rice and other such things; refusing meat. The Rev. T. G. WOOD, in his Natural History, states that *T. ferruginea* is said to feed on beetles, but to vary its diet with certain fruits. The common species here seems to be almost entirely frugivorous, though its teeth are those of a typical insectivore.

H. N. R.